Washington has been actively monitoring developments in the US Congress relating to India and lobbying with influential US Congressmen and opinion-makers to enhance understanding of India's concerns. The Mission's efforts are being supplemented by our Consulates and a law firm which has been engaged to assist us in lobbying with the US Congress. An intensive public information campaign covering a wide spectrum of US opinion has also been undertaken. This has been a continuing effort over a long time.

Strength of Department of Post

343. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the strength of Department of Post (Cadre-wise);

(b) in keeping with the norms prescribed by Government whether Government are considering any proposal for reduction of strength at the headquarters and directing the surplus staff to the Circles for operational work; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to overhaul the whole Department of post and whether any steps are being taken to place yearly lumpsum amount at the disposal of Postmaster Generals as is being done in telecom wing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The information is given at statement (*see* below).

(b) The review of posts both at Headquarters and field is done with reference to justified workload and redeployment/creation carried out as required.

(c) Operations, procedures and structures of the Department are constantly studied to effect improvement. There is no proposal to place any yearly lump sum amount at the disposal of circles.

Statement

Carde-Strength of Department of Post in Group 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D', and 'ED'

Group 'A'	635
Group 'B'	1843
Group 'C'	231994
Group 'D'	55562
Extra Departmental	306027
Total A+B+C+D	290034
Extra-Deparmental	306027
Grand Total	596061

Cases of Custodial Deaths

344. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of custodial deaths in police in the national capital have increased since the past few months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the total number of custodial deaths taken place during the past six months;

(c) whether the National Human Rights Commission have started probing the cause of deaths of inmates in police custody; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) No death in police custody in the Capital has been reported by Delhi Police in the last six months. However, intimation of four instances of deaths allegedly in police custody in Delhi in the last six months was given to the National Human Rights Commissioner of Police, Delhi and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi on each of these deaths, allegedly in police custody. Reports on all these four instances have been received by the Commission. In two of these cases, after considering the reports, the Commission has directed that no further action be taken.

Intimation regarding all deaths in police custody is sent to the national Human Rights Commission within 24 hours of the incident according to the standing instructions of the Commission.

मेरठ मंडल में वन्य-जन्तुओं की तस्करी

345. श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय:
श्री अनन्तराम जायसवाल:

क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पिछले कई वर्षों से उत्तर प्रदेश के मेरठ मंडल में बड़े पैमाने पर वन्य जन्तुओं की तस्करी हो रही है और वन्य जन्तुओं की इस तस्करी में सुरक्षा अधिकारी तथा कर्मचारी भी अंतर्ग्रस्त हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने वन्य-जन्तुओं की अंतर्राष्ट्रीय तस्करी में लिप्त मुख्य अभियुक्तों का पता लगाने के लिए कोई जांच कराई है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस जांच के क्या परिणाम हैं और इस मामले में सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है तथा इन अभियुक्तों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ): (क) जी, नहीं। पिछले तीन महीनों में उत्तर प्रदेश के मेरठ परिमंडल में वन्यजीव उत्पादों के अवैध व्यापार के केवल तीन मामलों का पता लगा है और वन्यजीवों की तस्करी में कोई सुरक्षा अधिकारी अथवा कर्मचारी शामिल नहीं था।

(ख) और (ग) जी, हां। वन्यजीव उत्पादों की तस्करी में शामिल अपराधियों का पता लगाने के लिए जांच पड़ताल की गई। जांच पड़ताल के परिणामों और अपराधियों के खिलाफ की गई कार्रवाई के ब्यौरे नीचे दिए गए हैं:—

1. 4.5.1995 को हरिद्वार रेंज से तेंदुए की तीन खालें पकड़ी गई और दो अपराधियों रामकुमार और संसार चन्द के खिलाफ न्यायालय में मामला दायर किया गया है। रामकुमार न्यायिक हिरासत में है और संसार चन्द को सम्मन जारी किया गया है।
2. 28.6.1995 को राजाजी पार्क के अंतर्गत मोहन्द रेंज से तेंदुए की दो खालें और 5 किलोग्राम हड्डियां पकड़ी गई तथा अपराधियों असलान अहमद और विलास अहमद न्यायिक हिरासत में हैं और संसार चन्द के खिलाफ न्यायालय ने गैर-जमानती वारन्ट जारी कर दिया है।
3. 6.7.1995 को हरिद्वार के निकट श्यामपुर रेंज से तेंदुए की एक खाल पकड़ी गई अपराधी प्रताप और रमेश न्यायिक हिरासत में हैं और संसार चन्द जिसको इस मामले में फंसाया गया है, के खिलाफ न्यायालय ने गैर-जमानती वारन्ट जारी किया है।

Communication Network in Saurashtra-Kachh Region

346. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the communication network in Saurashtra-Kachh region has not been operating properly for the last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken to improve the operational performance of communication network in Saurashtra-Kachh region;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up modern electronic communication system in the region; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Communication network in Saurashtra-Kachh region is operating satisfactorily.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Steps proposed to be taken to further improve the services in the region are enclosed in statement-I (*see* below).

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) (i) In Saurashtra-Kachh region, all the new exchanges to be installed shall be modern electronic exchanges only.